

JPRS 75183

22 February 1980

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 176

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		1. REPORT NO. JPRS 75183	2.	3. Recipient's Accession No.
4. Title and Subtitle WORLDWIDE REPORT: EPIDEMIOLOGY, No. 176				5. Report Date 22 February 1980
7. Author(s)				6.
9. Performing Organization Name and Address Joint Publications Research Service 1000 North Glebe Road Arlington, Virginia 22201				10. Project/Task/Work Unit No.
				11. Contract(C) or Grant(G) No. (C) (G)
12. Sponsoring Organization Name and Address As above				13. Type of Report & Period Covered 14.
15. Supplementary Notes				
16. Abstract (Limit 200 words) This serial report contains worldwide press and radio coverage of incidence, outbreak, and other aspects of human, animal, and plant diseases, insect pests and control, sanitation conditions, immunization and public health programs.				
17. Document Analysis a. Descriptors Worldwide Clinical Medicine Environmental Biology Hygiene and Sanitation Microbiology				
b. Identifiers/Open Ended Terms c. COSATI Field/Group 2E, 6E, 6F, 6I, 6M				
18. Availability Statement Unlimited Availability Sold by NTIS Springfield, Virginia 22161		19. Security Class (This Report) UNCLASSIFIED	21. No. of Pages 60	
		20. Security Class (This Page) UNCLASSIFIED	22. Price	

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CONTENTS

PAGE

HUMAN DISEASES

AUSTRALIA

Newspapers Report Problems With Meningitis (Various sources, 8, 11, 12 Dec 79)	1
Virus Found in Five States, by Joe Scavo	
Fifty Cases in Victoria	
Brisbane Paper Reports	
Cases Reported in Sydney, by Shaun McIlraith	
Press Reports Details of 'Mystery' Outbreak on Palm Island (Various sources, 4, 6, 10 Dec 79)	4
Cause Remains Unknown	
Check by Epidemiologist	
Illness Reported Spreading	
Immediate Action Urged, Editorial	
Editorial Scores 'Ineffective' Health Care for Aborigines (Editorial; THE AGE, 3 Dec 79)	7
Briefs	
Victorian Antirubella Campaign	8
Fight Against Encephalitis	8

BRAZIL

CEME Will Spend 400 Million Cruzeiros To Combat Tuberculosis in 1980 (O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 20 Jan 80)	9
---	---

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
Briefs	
Yellow Fever in Rio Denied	11
Measles Outbreak	11
CAMEROON	
Measles Immunization for 480 Children (CAMEROON TRIBUNE, 11 Jan 80)	12
COSTA RICA	
Meningitis in Panama Alerts Local Officials (Panama City Televisora Nacional, 26 Jan 80)	13
ITALY	
Outbreak of Viral Hepatitis Blamed on Authorities (L'UNIONE SARDA, 6 Jan 80)	14
Briefs	
Hepatitis Checked in Fonni	16
JAPAN	
El-tor-ogawa Type Cholera Germ Confirmed (KYODO, 28 Jan 80)	17
LIBERIA	
Briefs	
Measles Outbreak in Liberia	18
NAMIBIA	
Briefs	
Death From Rabid Jackal	19
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	
Briefs	
Increase in Venereal Disease	20
TANZANIA	
Briefs	
Cholera Outbreak	21

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
UNITED KINGDOM	
Chagas Disease Vaccine Announced (EL TIEMPO, 19 Jan 80)	22
VENEZUELA	
Officials Detect Malaria in Bolivar State (ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, 11 Jan 80)	24
Briefs	
Gastroenteritis Outbreak	25
ANIMAL DISEASES	
AUSTRALIA	
Veterinary Researchers Isolate Mystery Plague Virus (Errol Simper; THE AUSTRALIAN, 6 Dec 79)	26
Briefs	
Diseased Piglets	27
BRAZIL	
Economic Impact of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Mato Grosso do Sul Discussed (JORNAL DO BRASIL, 20 Jan 80)	28
COLOMBIA	
Massive Campaign Against Foot-and-Mouth Underway (EL ESPECTADOR, 11 Jan 80)	29
Campaign Begins in Cundinamarca Mobile Squads Organized Effects, Treatment Local Vaccine Production Strategies Used	
Aftosa Persists, Control Problems Explained (Roberto Acero; EL ESPECTADOR, 29 Dec 79)	37
Bovine Tuberculosis Outbreak, Few Humans Affected (EL SIGLO, 15 Jan 80)	39
Cattle Slaughtered Human Victims	

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
CUBA	
African Swine Fever Confirmed in Guantanamo Province (Havana Domestic Service, 11 Feb 80)	43
ECUADOR	
Measures Taken To Guard Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (EL COMERCIO, 28 Dec 79)	45
HONDURAS	
Briefs	
Swine Fever Epidemic Denied	46
KENYA	
Briefs	
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak	47
NIGERIA	
Cattle Disease Reported in Gongola State (A. B. Tapidi; NEW NIGERIAN, 11 Jan 80)	48
PHILIPPINES	
Briefs	
Antirabies Drive	49
RHODESIA	
Briefs	
Cattle Inoculated	50
PLANT DISEASES AND INSECT PESTS	
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS	
Steps Taken To Prevent Coffee Rust Spread From Peru to Ecuador (EL TIEMPO, 9 Jan 80)	51
CUBA	
Briefs	
Tobacco Disease Closes Factories	52

CONTENTS (Continued)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

	Page
Briefs	
Plant Transporting Control	53

GUATEMALA

Briefs	
Coffee Rust Control	54

PAKISTAN

Efforts To Save Mustard Crop From Pests (THE MUSLIM, 2 Jan 80)	55
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AUSTRALIA

NEWSPAPERS REPORT PROBLEMS WITH MENINGITIS

Virus Found in Five States

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 11 Dec 79 p 3

[Report by Joe Scavo]

[Text] A virus which causes a type of meningitis has spread to five States and has been isolated, mostly in children.

The Australian Communicable Diseases Intelligence Bulletin showed yesterday that 240 cases of viral meningitis, called ECHO type 11, have been spotted in five States. It has so far not been detected in Tasmania.

The NSW Health Commission's adviser on communicable diseases, Dr Peter Christopher, said in Sydney yesterday: "Echo type 11 is one of the many viruses which from time to time cause a condition called viral meningitis, or aseptic meningitis--it is particularly prevalent now."

He stressed that "it is considered benign and the patient recovers rapidly in three to 10 days".

The virus was first isolated in Western Australia and South Australia in September, and was later isolated in Victoria and NSW.

Yesterday's Bulletin said the virus had also been isolated in Queensland during the past two weeks.

The virus affects people in different ways. Some could have it and not be ill, some could be feverish, while others could suffer from the actual disease.

The symptoms of aseptic meningitis are severe headaches, neck stiffness, and fever.

Aseptic meningitis seems to have caused or contributed to the death of a seven-day-old child in hospital Lismore in NSW on November 29.

Three other babies suffered from an illness attributed to it. The Lismore Hospital's nursery was closed after the baby's death.

It is believed the baby was also suffering from neo-natal complications.

Also yesterday, the results of tests on swimming pools in western NSW, closed last week after two girls died from bacterial meningitis, showed no traces of the bacteria.

Bacterial meningitis is always present in the community and last year two people in NSW died after suffering from it were admitted to hospitals.

It should not be confused with the much milder and benign, aseptic meningitis.

The pools were closed last week when an outbreak of fatal bacterial meningitis was feared.

The pools were linked with the deaths of the two young girls who died within days of each other, and two men who suffered a meningitis-type illness.

The dead girls, Judith McMahon, 11, of Wellington, and Penny Sullivan, 8, of Mumbil, had both attended swimming lessons at Wellington Olympic pool.

Doctor Christopher said that precisely how the girls caught the disease was not known but it was thought coughing and sneezing was the most likely way it was spread.

Fifty Cases in Victoria

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 12 Dec 79 p 12

[Text] Melbourne: More than 50 people suffering from viral meningitis had been treated at Melbourne's Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, the hospital's medical director, Dr Noel Bennett, said yesterday.

Although viral meningitis was a regular summer event in Melbourne, the number of cases treated was higher than in recent years, he said.

The epidemic would continue until the end of March.

The Commonwealth Health Department's chief epidemiologist, Dr John Donovan, said that in the eight-week period to the end of November, Fairfield admitted 55

people, while 18 were sent to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Five University of Melbourne students had also caught the disease, Dr Donovan said.

"What we have literally is an outbreak," he said. "There is no cure for the viral infection and no practical treatment or antibiotics are available.

"The patient just has to weather it out."

Brisbane Paper Reports

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 12 Dec 79 p 12

[Text] A virus which causes a type of meningitis had spread into Queensland, a Commonwealth Health Department official said yesterday.

But a State Health Department spokesman said the virus should be considered a seasonal hazard, and it was now on the wane in Queensland.

He said 24 cases of the virus, known as Echo type II, were recorded last month. Half were associated with meningitis.

Eight cases of Echo II were recorded throughout the State this month. Again, half were associated with meningitis.

Echo type II is one of several viruses which can cause viral or aseptic meningitis.

The Commonwealth Health Department spokesman said that although it was dangerous to newborn children, older people usually did not become hospital cases.

Contagious

Symptoms were severe headache, severe neck stiffness and a high temperature. The virus was contagious through coughing and sneezing.

"We have recorded 240 cases in five States over the last couple of months," the spokesman said.

"It has approached epidemic proportions."

The Commonwealth Health Department's latest figures, for the two weeks ending November 26, showed 14 meningitic cases of Echo II in Queensland, 25 in Victoria and 34 in New

South Wales.

The spokesman believed aseptic meningitis was associated with the death on November 29 of a seven-day-old baby at Almora in northern New South Wales.

The only way Echo II could be confirmed was through blood analysis.

Health authorities stressed that the Echo II virus and aseptic meningitis were much less dangerous than the bacterial meningitis which is believed to have claimed the lives of two Wellington children in western New South Wales

early this month.

62 cases

The bacterial strain of meningitis, ever present within the community, occurred 62 times in Queensland in 1977-78, according to the latest available Health Department statistics.

Of these cases, 30 were in the metropolitan area.

Reports of fatal illnesses in 14 Queensland aboriginal communities put meningitis as the cause of five deaths between 1972 and 1977.

Cases Reported in Sydney

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 8 Dec 79 p 3

[Report by Shaun McIlraith, Medical Correspondent]

[Text] The risk from the bacterial meningitis which killed two NSW girls this week seems to have gone, but an unrelated and entirely different meningitis has emerged.

This second type of meningitis seems to have caused the death of a seven-day-old infant in the nursery of Lismore Hospital on November 29 and three other babies in the nursery suffered illness attributed to it.

The hospital closed the nursery after the child's death and it is still closed.

The second illness is caused not by bacteria but by a virus, the Echo 11 type, which has been isolated from specimens from 34 NSW and Canberra patients in the past month.

While health officials do not regard the Echo 11 cases as an epidemic, the virus has been more than usually prevalent throughout Australia this year.

The Australian Communicable Diseases Intelligence Bulletin, published by the Federal Health Department, reported on October 26 that there had been 111 isolations of Echo 11 virus in the previous two months, compared with four for the corresponding period of 1978.

The acting adviser on communicable diseases to the NSW Health Commission, Dr Peter Christopher, said yesterday the symptoms of Echo 11 viral meningitis were indistinguishable from those of meningococcal meningitis caused by bacteria.

But the Echo 11 meningitis was generally milder than bacterial meningitis.

And only half the 32 cases of Echo 11 illness confirmed in NSW and Canberra were meningitis, or inflammation of the lining of the brain.

The rest were lesser, feverish illnesses.

While the risk of Echo 11 meningitis was extremely small, anyone suffering a feverish illness with severe headache and neck stiffness should see a doctor.

The Echo 11 virus from NSW and Canberra people was isolated at the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead.

Sixteen of the virus isolates were from Canberra people.

The Echo 11 outbreak started this year in South Australia, where it caused a wide variety of symptoms. Cases were then reported in Victoria and later in NSW.

The risk of bacterial meningitis was considered to have faded yesterday despite reports that two men — one in Coonamble, one in Molong — had suffered the disease.

The Molong man, admitted to Orange Base Hospital last weekend, has since been discharged fully recovered, according to the medical superintendent, Dr Jan Hunt.

It is not known whether this man's meningitis was of bacterial origin.

The Coonamble man was sent from Dubbo Hospital to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

He is reported to be in a satisfactory condition. The or-

ganism causing his meningitis has not been identified.

Following the death from meningitis of two Wellington girls this week, samples of water from swimming pools in Wellington, Orange, Molong and Dubbo were sent to Sydney for investigation.

The results of tests by the Division of Analytical Laboratories are expected to be known on Monday.

Health officials are convinced there is no connection between the girls' illnesses and those of the two men.

They point out that meningococcal meningitis is always present in the community. Last year 42 people were admitted to hospital in NSW with it and two died.

The officials link the girls' cases because, being members of the same swimming club, one could have infected the other by droplet transmission. Spread through water is unlikely.

They believe the risk of further transmission is past because 85 children from two schools attended by the girls, 12 children from their swimming club and a number of adult contacts have been treated with rifampicin, an antibiotic.

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

PRESS REPORTS DETAILS OF 'MYSTERY' OUTBREAK ON PALM ISLAND

Cause Remains Unknown

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 4 Dec 79 p 11

[Text] The cause of a mystery illness which put nearly 100 Palm Islanders, mostly children, in hospital may never be known.

State Health Department senior health officer (Dr. Tony Musgrave) said this yesterday.

He said Health Department officers had not been able to establish the cause of the illness.

There was no evidence to incriminate foodstuffs. The island's water supply had also been checked, he said.

Dr. Musgrave said a number of islanders had turned to old wells for water after they detected a smell in the island's water supply.

These wells were definitely polluted, but there was no established link between the pollutants in the well and the organisms found in the faeces of the ill people.

He said State Health Department officers would continue to investigate the travels of the islanders before they were affected by the illness, to try to detect a common link.

A senior Government

expert (Dr. Tony Bourke) had been sent to Palm Island to do "detective work".

Activity at Palm Island returned to normal yesterday. All three schools and the pre-school reopened.

First time

Palm Island Council chairman (Mr. Jacob Baird, Jr.) said apart from an outbreak of hepatitis some years ago, it was the first time Palm Island had suffered such an outbreak of sickness.

He said everyone on the island had his own ideas on the cause of the illness.

"Some say it was the mangoes, some say it was the water," he said.

"Maybe we won't ever find out what it was."

Queensland Labor Senator Jim Keefe yesterday demanded a full investigation into the cause of the illness.

"It's a damn disgrace," he said.

"If it happened in a white community, teams of specialists would have been brought in from all over the place to find out why 100 kids were sick," he said.

Investigate

He said there should have been an investigation as soon as the first six children became ill.

A Health Department spokesman said 22 chil-

dren were discharged from the Townsville hospital on Sunday and seven yesterday.

The Townsville Hospital Deputy-Superintendent (Dr. Jaumees) said yesterday 40 children were still in the hospital's isolation ward.

Hygiene problems and unsatisfactory living conditions were responsible for the illness, the Opposition Leader (Mr. Casey) said in Townsville yesterday.

He said "the key thing now is to treat the causes and not the effects."

And the cause is the hygiene problem coupled with the living conditions that the residents of Palm Island have to put up with."

Check by Epidemiologist

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Dec 79 p 21

[Text]

TOWNSVILLE.— A Brisbane epidemiologist is sifting through information found by investigators of the Palm Island mystery infection, but hope of finding the infection source is fading.

The State epidemiologists, (Dr Tony Bourke) is trying to establish a "Pattern of Illness" by talking to patients, doctors and those who were carrying out laboratory tests, Brisbane senior health officer (Dr T. Musgrave) said yesterday.

Dr Bourke yesterday visited Townsville Hospital, which last week had 78 Palm Island children suffering from severe vomiting and dehydration symptoms.

He also visited the Australian Health Laboratory in Townsville.

An Australian Health Laboratory spokesman in Townsville said Dr Bourke believed an epidemiologist should have been called in earlier, but staff shortages in Brisbane prevented this.

There were 39 Palm Island children still in Townsville Hospital yesterday and medical authorities were planning to send more back to the island.

Eleven children returned on Tuesday.

In Canberra the Federal Opposition aboriginal affairs spokesman, Dr. Everingham, has condem-

ned the reaction of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Affairs Minister (Mr. Porter) to the outbreak.

Dr. Everingham said Mr. Porter's department had such complete power over land, houses, jobs, schools, travel, communications and health services that it forced elected aboriginal councils to obey its suggestions.

One evident recent example had been the refusal to allow a visit to Palm Island next week by an officer of Townsville's Aboriginal and Islander Health Service.

Illness Reported Spreading

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Dec 79 p 3

[Text]

A MYSTERY disease that has swept through the Queensland Government's Palm Island Aboriginal reserve near Townsville, is now affecting adults as well as children.

Eight adults were taken to the Townsville hospital at the weekend to join more than 80 children already being treated there.

Government microbiologists are still unable to pinpoint the cause of the disease. Its

symptoms are weariness and loss of appetite, followed by vomiting and a loss of balance.

The Government has been widely criticised for lack of action in dealing with the epidemic, but Health Department officials say everything possible is being done to find the cause and eradicate it.

A spokesman at the hospital said most of the patients were quickly recovering, and only a small minority was still receiving "active treatment".

Immediate Action Urged

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 4 Dec 79 p 4

[Editorial: "Palm Island Illness"]

[Text]

ONCE the cause of the illness which has struck more than 80 young aborigines at Palm Island is known State authorities must act to prevent any new outbreak.

It is most unlikely that eating green mangoes was the cause of the illness, as the Aboriginal and Island Affairs Minister (Mr. Porter) has somewhat insensitively suggested. The young aborigines have not suffered mere tummy-aches, but have been quite seriously ill.

It is much more likely that there has been some deficiency in hygiene and health standards. If this is so Mr. Porter will have to accept some of the blame.

Senator Bonner has accused the Government of being indifferent to the aborigines' plight. He claims that Mr. Porter should have visited the island to see conditions at first hand.

Probably a visit by the Minister would have been a more practical indication of the Government's concern about aborigines than his recent trip to London to convince the British public.

However, as Mr. Porter has indicated, he personally could not have done anything to discover the cause of the illness. And Senator Bonner has said that he is impressed by the work of the doctors and nurses treating the ill, and the pilots flying them to Townsville Hospital for treatment.

The important thing is that the cause of the illness be discovered as quickly as possible. Government microbiologists are engaged on this. Then it will be the Minister's job to see that whatever action is needed on preventive care is taken without delay.

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

EDITORIAL SCORES 'INEFFECTIVE' HEALTH CARE FOR ABORIGINES

Melbourne THE AGE in English 3 Dec 79 p 11

[Editorial: "Action Needed on Health of Blacks"]

[Text]

THE Prime Minister's decision to take a direct interest in Aboriginal health is encouraging. What Mr. Fraser has apparently discovered is what medical research teams have been saying for a long time — that no group of Australians is as badly served in the field of health and medical care as the nation's Aborigines. They have one of the highest infant mortality rates, and one of the highest ethnic blindness rates, in the world. In the words of one report on Northern Territory Aborigines earlier this year, they live in a world of "blinding poverty" and squalor in which even the most basic facilities for healthy, hygienic living are absent. Their "Dickensian environment" is matched — the report said — by a 19th century demographic pattern of high birth, mortality and disease rates allied to a high incidence of illiteracy and unemployment.

Since this report was tabled in the NT Parliament in June, the Royal College of Ophthalmologists has reported on the Federal Government-funded national trachoma and eye programme. After screening more than 60,000 Aborigines, the college unit concluded that the

health services being provided for Aborigines were "largely ineffective", and that the high incidence of avoidable eye disease, ear infection, VD, leprosy and respiratory diseases was evidence of "a failure of delivery" on the part of the Government health authorities. Apparently they are still failing to deliver; for Mr. Fraser has told his department to set up a senior level task force to evaluate the existing health programmes for Aborigines, and report to him by April on ways in which those programmes might be altered and improved.

Mr. Fraser's own Government must accept some of the blame for the poor results being achieved. It has had four years in which to mount a comprehensive health and medical programme for the Aboriginal population. Yet the Aborigines continue to be the country's forgotten people. If Mr. Fraser is serious about doing something positive for this scandalously neglected group, he will see to it that the task force does report to him by April, that its report is made public, and that firm corrective action follows.

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

VICTORIAN ANTIRUBELLA CAMPAIGN--The State Opposition yesterday called on the Government to accelerate its anti-rubella vaccination programme. The Labor spokesman on health, Mr. Roper, said there had been an "alarming" decline in the number of rubella immunisations this year, despite the work of the Deafness Foundation in combatting the infection. The Health Commission had issued only 45,600 vaccinations between January and the end of August, compared with 58,600 for the same time in 1978, he said. Mr. Roper said there were 1600 fewer vaccinations in 1978 than in 1977. "This suggests that Grade Six girls, teenagers and women of child-bearing age who should have been immunised have not been," he said. Mr. Roper said a broader anti-rubella programme would reduce the costs to the community. He said it cost more than \$3 million a year to look after the 40 rubella children born in Victoria each year. [Excerpts] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 10 Dec 79 p 13]

FIGHT AGAINST ENCEPHALITIS--Canberra.--A \$30,000 mobile field laboratory, provided by the Federal Government as part of the national campaign to combat encephalitis, was officially handed over in the Murray Valley this week. The Health Minister (Mr. MacKellar) said yesterday the laboratory would play a vital role in the campaign for which the Government had allocated \$180,000. Mr. MacKellar said the laboratory was equipped for control of and research into the mosquito-spread disease. Mr. MacKellar said the laboratory had been handed over to field workers at the Barmah Forest, near Echuca, Victoria, where the encephalitis virus was first isolated in the last epidemic. He said although it would operate initially in the Murray Valley area, it would be available for use in any part of Australia threatened by the disease. [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 15 Dec 79 p 27]

CSO: 5400

CEME WILL SPEND 400 MILLION CRUZEIROS TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS IN 1980

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Jan 80 p 29

[Text] CEME [Central Enterprise for Medicines] will spend about 400 million cruzeiros this year on the distribution of tuberculosis medicines. According to the Health Ministry schedule, the medicine will be given free of charge to all tuberculosis carriers. CEME will spend another 18 million cruzeiros on 15.59 million doses of intradermal BCG vaccine, which will be distributed in all regions of the country.

The medicines will be distributed by region as follows. North: 60,750 ampules of streptomycin; 4,669,740 isoniazid tablets; 2,042,400 rifampicin tablets; 972,000 ethambutol tablets; 873,900 pyrazinamide tablets; 729,000 dragees of ethionamide; 6,264 vials of rifampicin syrup; 2,088 vials of pyrazinamide syrup. In the Northeast: 385,830 ampules of streptomycin; 3,661,740 tablets of isoniazid plus thiacetazone; 15,429,320 isoniazid tablets; 7,325,450 rifampicin tablets; 3,919,272 ethambutol tablets; 2,073,600 pyrazinamide tablets; 2,200,400 dragees of ethionamide; 20,440 vials of rifampicin syrup; 9,720 vials of ethambutol syrup and 6,640 vials of pyrazinamide syrup.

The southeastern region will receive 261,900 ampules of streptomycin; 1,598,200 tablets of isoniazid plus thiacetazone; 16,119,120 isoniazid tablets; 7,678,480 rifampicin tablets; 4,261,310 ethambutol tablets; 11,115,320 pyrazinamide tablets; 2,786,600 dragees of ethionamide; 23,128 vials of rifampicin syrup; 9,600 vials of ethambutol syrup and 7,176 vials of pyrazinamide syrup. The southern region will receive 145,260 ampules of streptomycin; 1,319,400 tablets of isoniazid plus thiacetazone; 7,648,560 isoniazid tablets; 2,994,970 rifampicin tablets; 1,440,240 ethambutol tablets; 1,368,360 pyrazinamide tablets; 943,920 dragees of ethionamide; 8,202 vials of rifampicin; 3,600 vials of ethambutol and 2,544 vials of pyrazinamide.

The central western region will receive 41,640 ampules of streptomycin; 457,200 tablets of isoniazid plus thiacetazone; 1,732,560 isoniazid tablets; 686,750 rifampicin tablets; 257,520 ethambutol tablets; 284,480 pyrazinamide tablets; 146,880 dragees of ethionamide; 3,096 vials of

rifampicin syrup; 1,200 vials of ethambutol syrup; and 472 vials of pyrazinamide syrup.

Intradermal BCG will be distributed as follows: North, 515,000 doses; Northeast, 3.9 million doses; South, 8 million doses; and Central West 730,000 doses.

Last year, CEME spent 14 million cruzeiros on the BCG distribution program and 155 million cruzeiros on the distribution of tuberculosis medicines.

6362

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER IN RIO DENIED--SUCAM [Superintendency of Public Health Campaigns] yesterday denied rumors of a yellow fever focus in the state. Since "Aedis Aegypti," the mosquito that transmits the disease, appeared over a year ago in Rio, health officials have been conducting eradication operations routinely around cisterns and wells. Although the danger of yellow fever in the state is remote, SUCAM has been conducting an intensive epidemiological surveillance. According to the health minister, thousands of dwellings have already been inspected and a follow-up is currently in progress. The campaign will be concluded when it is confirmed that the mosquito has been completely eliminated. Some health officials call the rumors of a disease focus "nonsense." As one doctor reported: "We have not had a case of yellow fever in Rio de Janeiro since the days of Oswaldo Cruz." [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Jan 80 p 12] 6362

MEASLES OUTBREAK--In the town of Piquiri, Rio Grande do Norte state, 100 children died of measles last December. The public health services foundation blamed the fatal outbreak on the very poor sanitary conditions in which people live in that town, 80 kilometers south of Natal. [PY120159 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 Feb 80 p 19 PY]

CSO: 5400

CAMEROON

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION FOR 480 CHILDREN

Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in French 11 Jan 80 p 6

[Text] As a part of the measles immunization campaign, Dr Kouegoua Daniel, head of the preventive and rural medicine department of Upper Nkam, organized a series of important meetings in the urban area of Bafang and the peripheral zone.

This second campaign follows one organized in June-July of 1979, and will last until February next in the Upper Nkam area.

Lending a hand, Dr Kouegoua, accompanied by some of the male nurses in his service, travelled to Bakou, Bana and Bandja, where a large crowd bore witness to the interest evoked by the immunization program and to its importance. These meetings are of great benefit to the children, particularly when one realizes that each year the measles epidemics, which often begin about January, leave hundreds of victims among the newborn.

7129

CSO: 5400

COSTA RICA

MENINGITIS IN PANAMA ALERTS LOCAL OFFICIALS

PA270144 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 26 Jan 80 PA

[Text] Officials of the Costa Rican health ministry assigned to the area along the Panamanian border are in the alert because of an outbreak of meningitis in Chiriqui province [Panama].

Costa Rican Health Director Leonardo Marranghelo said today in San Jose that so far no case of the dreaded disease has been detected in Costa Rica, although the alert has been in effect since December.

This week a report from Panama indicated that an outbreak of meningitis had been detected in Chiriqui and that 50,000 doses of vaccine had been requested from abroad.

Meningitis is a disease of the nervous system.

Emilia Maria Leon, director of the epidemiology department of the Costa Rican health ministry, has remained in contact with her Panamanian counterpart to exchange information on the progress of the outbreak.

CSO: 5400

ITALY

OUTBREAK OF VIRAL HEPATITIS BLAMED ON AUTHORITIES

Cagliari L'UNIONE SARDA in Italian 6 Jan 80 p 10

[Communiqué from Communal Junta of Gavoi on hepatitis in Lodine; sent from Gavoi; date not given]

[Text] We are publishing herewith a communiqué from the Communal Junta of Gavoi on Lodine and its problems, typical of the situation of many towns in Sardinia; Lodine is a hamlet on the outskirts of Gavoi.

In view of the serious epidemic of viral hepatitis which has struck almost 20 Lodine children (8 percent of the population, about a third of the children of school age), Gavoi's communal administration (PCI, PSI [Italian Socialist Party], PDUP [Proletarian Unity Party], leftist IND), is resolved not to let this serious episode pass unnoticed but to give it the broadest publicity possible in order to reveal who is truly responsible.

Very often the ruling classes have passed off the harmful effects of their method of producing and governing as natural "quirks of fate": fatalities at work, the Seveso tragedy, cholera in Naples and Cagliari and the like. There was also danger of this occurring with hepatitis in Lodine: the claim that this was perhaps the result of unknown and mysterious causes for which no one is responsible unless it be fate itself, or worse, that the victims themselves were responsible.

Certainly, there are many cattle barns with livestock in Lodine, but some time ago the communal administration decided to eliminate them from the village through various ordinances; here they met with resistance, for cattle raising often represents a supplementary source of income and, for a retired person or the unemployed, an item of considerable importance. It was possible to resolve the problem with community cattlesheds; why, then, was nothing ever done in this direction by the regional authorities? The sewage system in Lodine needs to be completed; but for about 8 years the project has been lying dormant in the offices of the Development

Fund for the South waiting for financing. And while the people were awaiting this action, a clientele miracle occurs, financing is provided for the construction of a bell tower costing about 20 million.

In Lodine, as in many other villages in our area, there are open sewers; financing is needed which the commune can supply only partially, for local organizations in this atmosphere of "austerity" are almost completely out of funds. The status of school construction in Lodine is not good: elementary schools would need about 80 million to be put in proper condition; secondary schools should be rebuilt, as they are unsuitable. Furthermore, there is unemployment in Lodine, housing in unsatisfactory condition from the stand-point of sanitary hygiene, with a lack of normal facilities, dampness and overcrowded conditions.

As can be seen, we have all the conditions of Italy's South.

It is here, in a situation which has deteriorated in many aspects, that we see the emergence and development of the hepatitis virus and many diseases which are lying dormant, ready to break out with serious results as soon as "circumstances" permit. Under these conditions, what can a communal administration do except try here and there to plug the far too many leaks caused by lack of regional and governmental action? What except prepare projects which then remain year after year growing moldy among the heaps of papers of regional and state bureaucracy?

It is certain that in all this event the crisis of institutions comes out the worst: it took more than a month for the proper authorities to arrange to have the water analyzed (we are not holding the technicians and head of the provincial hygiene laboratory responsible, as they were not informed by the ones in charge); the hospital and health organizations showed that they were incapable of handling a health emergency: more than a month would have been needed to analyze the entire population and we therefore had to resort to a private laboratory.

Who is responsible for this epidemic, which will be added to the other chronic ills of our island (emigration, unemployment and the like)?

It is the usual ones, that is, all the regional and national administrations which have followed one another during the last 30 years, which have kept the entire South and the islands in a state of extreme economic, social, cultural and hygienic deterioration; these are the real causes of hepatitis, cholera and other diseases. And health reform? The government tells us it has already got underway. Too bad! We were not aware of it.

8568
CSO: 5400

ITALY

BRIEFS

HEPATITIS CHECKED IN FONNI--Fonni, 5 January--There is no epidemic of viral hepatitis in Fonni; only one case is certain, that of a 22-year-old youth afflicted by the disease (quite probably after a surgical operation), and three children, his relatives, in whom a movement of "transaminasis" was found (in common language, the first elements of hepatitis). The three children were immediately interned as a precaution, but the "cases" proved to be very light. In fact, one schoolgirl was dismissed after hardly a week, while the other two are to be dismissed at any moment. Therefore, we have no cause for concern. This news, which was leaked out, created a certain amount of alarm among the people, for it was said that it had been kept secret for several days. "This is incorrect," Dr Michele Mulas, a Fonni health official, stated. "All health and political authorities were notified, and we also made it a point to advise the teachers of the three children suspected of having the disease. Even though the situation did not appear serious to us in the beginning, we immediately took appropriate measures ordering an analysis to be made of the close and not-so-close relatives of the affected youth and immunizing all pupils, in the same class as the three children, with gamma globulin. This news," Dr Mulas concluded, "serves only to create alarm, partly because an attempt is being made to associate this incident with the hepatitis epidemic ascertained in Lodine." [Text] [Cagliari L'UNIONE SARDA (in Italian 6 Jan 80 p 10) 8568

CSO: 5400

EL-TOR-OGAWA TYPE CHOLERA GERM CONFIRMED

Tokyo KYODO in English 28 Jan 80 OW

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Jan (KYODO)--A 62-year-old Nakano ward housewife who returned last Thursday from a trip to the Philippines, was isolated Monday in a Tokyo hospital after being found to be an el-tor-ogawa type cholera germ carrier, metropolitan health officials reported.

The metropolitan public health bureau began disinfection operations besides examining 172 others, including 37 from Tokyo, who had been on the sight-seeing tour.

The tour group had left for the Philippines on 20 January. Upon arriving back at New Tokyo International Airport at Narita last Thursday evening, the housewife informed health officials that she had suffered from a case of loose bowels on 21 January.

In tests conducted by the National Institute of Health Monday, the el-tor-ogawa type cholera germ was detected, the health official said.

CSO: 5400

LIBERIA

BRIEFS

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN LIBERIA--A team from the national extended program of immunization headed by Thomas (Tootlaye) continues its 1-week vaccination campaign in the town of Balasona, Nimba county, where a sudden outbreak of measles has claimed the lives of eight children between the ages of two and four within the past few days. (Tootlaye) said that his team expected to vaccinate about 2,800 children during the week. He said there would be vaccinations in other parts of Buiwarkland where the disease has not yet been reported. [AB010820 Monrovia Radio Elwa in English 0625 GMT 1 Feb 80]

CSO: 5400

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

DEATH FROM RABID JACKAL--A young Herero man, Mr Siegfried Nderapja, died on Monday in the hospital at Okakarara from rabies. He was bitten by a jackal. Mr Nderapua was bitten two weeks ago. On his arrival at the hospital the doctors were positive that he had rabies, but he died before it could be confirmed. At the post-mortem it was established that Mr Nderapua did in fact die from rabies. The deceased's wife had scratchmarks on her hands and was treated for rabies before complications could set in. Four hospital attendants were also treated for rabies after coming into contact with Mr and Mrs Nderapua. [Text] [Windhoek THE WHINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 30 Jan 80 p 1]

CSO: 5400

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN VENEREAL DISEASE--Port Moresby, Mon: Port Moresby now has twice as many prostitutes as it had a few years ago, says the Papua New Guinea Health Minister, Mr Raphael Doa. Mr Doa told Parliament that this had been one of the causes of the increased incidence of venereal diseases in the PNG capital. Mr Doa said these diseases were also spreading in other major centres throughout Papua New Guinea. A joint effort by the police, civic authorities, the PNG Health Department and ordinary people was needed to curb the prostitution and venereal disease. Mr Doa also told Dr Goasa Damena, who had raised the matter in Parliament, that the Government's anti-leprosy and anti-tuberculosis programmes were not working according to plan. Dr Damena, a doctor, said that tuberculosis and leprosy were increasing in incidence in Port Moresby and the surrounding areas.--AAP. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Dec 79 p 24]

CSO: 5400

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK--Ifakara--There has been a fresh outbreak of cholera in the Kilombero District. One person from Ifakara died the day before yesterday and six others have been hospitalized. [LD071611 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 7 Feb 80 LD/EA]

CSO: 5400

UNITED KINGDOM

CHAGAS DISEASE VACCINE ANNOUNCED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Jan 80 Sec A pp 1, 6

[Text] Paris, 18 January (AFP)--The British scientific journal NATURE disclosed that Chagas disease, one of the major scourges challenging the medical profession in Central and South America, may be conquered with a new vaccine that has already been tested successfully.

According to the estimates, between 12 and 22 million persons suffer from Chagas disease, in its chronic or acute form, in the Latin American countries.

The worst of it is that the medical professional has been nearly helpless to counter the scourge, because there is no effective chemotherapy, as was acknowledged at the International Congress on Chagas Disease held a few months ago in Rio de Janeiro.

The scientists meeting in that Brazilian city also agreed that the most effective means of battling it consists of an improvement in living conditions and prophylaxis, because the disease is transmitted through the droppings of an insect.

The "prophylactic" treatment of the disease is more social than scientific in nature; and when the physicians specializing in it are forced to admit it, it would appear that they implicitly confess the limitations of their arsenal for combating the microbe which causes the disease, the Cruzy trypanosome, which lives in the blood of the victims.

The microbe was identified as the cause of this disease by a Brazilian doctor, Carlos Chagas, who died in Rio de Janeiro in 1934, at the age of 55, after having served as head of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute.

The only other weapons that the medical profession has to counter the ravages of Chagas disease are the soluble derivatives of quinoline.

In this chronic phase, the disease causes fever, edemas on the face, disorders of the nerves and skin, swelling of the ganglia and other effects; but the greatest danger lies in the possible cardiac complications.

According to statistics published a few years ago, the mortality rate in the latter cases amounted to 10 percent.

All the efforts that had been made to date to prepare an effective vaccine were countered by a peculiar feature of the trypanosomes, that of producing antigenic variations; in other words, the frequent change in the proteins of the microbe's membrane, which are precisely the target attacked by the elements used for immunological defense against the disease.

In addition, it was found that the use of the entire protozoan causing the disease in preparing the vaccine could result in the formation of antibodies harmful to the heart and the nervous system of the patient.

The scientists attribute this to the similarity between the molecules in the membrane of the trypanosome, from an immunological standpoint, and the superficial cells of the heart and nervous system of humans.

Owing to the aforementioned immunological resemblance, the antibodies against the disease are also established in the heart of the victim himself, and could cause fatal lesions.

The British journal NATURE revealed that some scientists working in a laboratory in ~~Brakeham~~, Drs Martin D. Scott and D. Snary, have apparently succeeded in surmounting these obstacles.

The scientists managed to separate a glycoprotein from the membrane of the microbe causing the disease which does not show the aforementioned phenomenon of antigenic variation.

With it, a vaccine was prepared and tested successfully on mice, without causing the formation of antibodies harmful to the heart, as had occurred with those made using the entire microbe.

Experiments on humans will soon be conducted.

2909
CSO: 5400

VENEZUELA

OFFICIALS DETECT MALARIA IN BOLIVAR STATE

Caracas ULTIMAS NOTICIAS in Spanish 11 Jan 80 p 8

[Text] Ciudad Bolivar, (INNAC)--Officials of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare have detected some 16 cases of malaria among persons living in Indian areas of La Gran Sabana, Bolivar State.

The ministry spokesman who released the information explained that in the area of La Gran Sabana an immunization campaign is being carried out, especially among the Indian population, which is suffering from the terrible epidemic. There is also an outbreak of whooping cough, measles, poliomyelitis and other diseases. The team operating in the area is receiving cooperation from the Indian Commission and military forces.

The spokesman from the Ministry of Health declared that cases of tuberculosis had been detected among the Indian population, and that they had received the appropriate treatment recommended in these emergency cases. Through the use of a health clinic system and instruction of the patients, it is hoped that within a few days the outbreak of these diseases will end.

In Ciudad Bolivar a state of emergency has been declared by the health commission, and all kinds of teams and first aid supplies are being sent to La Gran Sabana, an area which is quite far from this capital and difficult to reach because of the dense jungle. Travel by land is extremely difficult because of the bad condition of the highways and access roads. The most accessible route is by air.

According to the informant, the Indians most affected by malaria, measles, whooping cough and poliomyelitis are the inhabitants of the known settlements in La Gran Sabana such as La Candelaria, Perro de Agua and others.

Officials of the Ministry of Health, the Indian Commission, and military forces belonging to the V Jungle Division stationed in Ciudad Bolivar are being detached there.

8131
CSO: 5400

VENEZUELA

BRIEFS

GASTROENTERITIS OUTBREAK--Ciudad Bolivar, 26 Dec (Special INNAC)--Ruiz y Paez Hospital's pediatric emergency services are crowded again with outbreaks of gastroenteritis which are seriously affecting the children of the slums and other parts of the city. The pediatric services are full day and night, with demands to treat dozens of youngsters suffering from diarrhea. The new gastroenteritis outbreaks have their origin in the proliferation of flies in the city and the precarious environmental sanitation in the slums and outlying areas of the city where garbage dumps can be seen which are breeding places for flies and rodents that result in harm to child and adult health. [Text] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 27 Dec 79 pp 2-10] 11937

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

VETERINARY RESEARCHERS ISOLATE MYSTERY PLAGUE VIRUS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 6 Dec 79 pp 1, 2

[Report by Errol Simper]

[Text]

"AUSTRALIAN veterinary researchers believe they have isolated a mutant virus with the potential to cause a catastrophic plague among humans.

The researchers believe the virus to be the cause of a mystery new disease which has killed thousands of dogs in Australia, Canada, Holland, the United States and South Africa since it first struck in mid-1978.

They say it may be a mutant — the result of a sudden, abnormal divergence from ancestral type — of a virus which causes feline panleucopenia, a severe and often fatal cat disease.

The head of veterinary microbiology at James Cook University in Townsville, Professor Bob Johnson, said yesterday it was the first time in his experience that a virulent virus had, apparently, mutated to attack a completely different species.

"Professor Johnson, internationally recognised as one of the foremost experts in his field, stressed last night that he did not want to sensationalise what for the moment was 'a very sensitive area'.

But had the virus attacked human beings the consequences could have been, "quite tragic".

Professor Johnson isolated the virus while searching for a vaccine to prevent the mystery dog disease. He said yesterday he believed a suitable vaccine had been found.

A number of virologists said last night that a mutant virus, against which the human body had no natural or accumulated resistance, could cause havoc. It was conceivable that a particularly virulent form could kill hundreds of people before an antidote was discovered.

But, they stressed, the likelihood of a dangerous micro-organism switching from an animal to attack humans was extremely unlikely.

Professor Margaret Sabine,

an associate professor in veterinary virology at Sydney University's Department of Veterinary Pathology, said: "I am not prepared to say at this stage they were caused by a mutant virus.

"It is certainly a totally new disease, and one which — presumably because it hasn't been experienced before — certainly knocked the dogs for six.

"But more interesting to me is why it struck in 22 States of America, in Canada, South Africa, Australia and Holland almost simultaneously, from about May, 1978."

The disease affects dogs of all ages and is often fatal. Dogs which contract it display a variety of symptoms, including severe vomiting, frequent blood-stained stools and dehydration.

Though a preventative vaccine is not yet commercially available, Professor Johnson said vaccines being tested in Townsville and Melbourne were encouraging. They appeared to give significant immunity to puppies.

CSO: 5400

AUSTRALIA

6

BRIEFS

DISEASED PIGLETS--Brisbane: A disease which can cause a mortality rate of up to 50 per cent in piglets has been discovered in Queensland. Known as H.E.V. or vomiting and wasting disease, it has been found on four farms, three on Darling Downs. This disease is not considered a major threat at this stage, according to Government officers. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Dec 79 p 41]

CSO: 5400

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN MATO GROSSO DO SUL DISCUSSED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Jan 80 p 28

[Text] Campo Grande--Marcelo Miranda, governor of Rio Grande do Sul, believes that the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which has reached almost all of the state's herd, about 10 million head, "must be an unknown strain from Argentina or Paraguay, brought in by animals acquired by ranchers who live on the border." The governor further attributes the epidemic, which is causing livestock farming, and the state, incalculable harm, to the fact that "the ranchers are not being careful enough in seeing that the animals are vaccinated periodically, leaving them exposed."

In the last 8 months, only 3.5 million doses of foot-and-mouth vaccine have been sold in Mato Grosso do Sul, meaning that about 70 percent of the herd could come down with the disease. Recently, the Pantanal, considered the primary endemic zone, has been presenting alarming indices of foot-and-mouth disease.

The ranchers' laxity in attending the herd and the high price of vaccines, which should be administered every 4 months, added to the lack of inspection, means that the ranchers are administering vaccines only to fattened cattle ready for sale to the freezing plants, neglecting the health of the other cows and calves. The epidemic has already touched the entire state and is far from being eradicated, because very few ranchers believe in immunizing cattle.

The consumer market in the Rio-Sao Paulo-Minas Gerais axis is supplied with beef from Mato Grosso do Sul, principally from the Pantanal, and this epidemic has seriously concerned authorities, who fear an economic collapse if the disease is not controlled within a short time. For this year, the Agriculture Ministry has allocated 54.2 million cruzeiros to the state government to combat foot-and-mouth disease, but this amount does not even cover the cost of the studies which the Secretariat of Economic Development intends to conduct in this sector.

Since the crisis is reaching alarming proportions and the state government has not found a system for monitoring the 650 kilometers of border between Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraguay, rancher and Deputy Ary Rigo believes "the federal government should nationalize the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines."

COLOMBIA

MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH UNDERWAY

Campaign Begins in Cundinamarca

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 80 Sec A p 1

[Text] In view of the serious situation that has cropped up in Sabana de Bogota, with severe outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease which are decimating the Sabana cattle ranches, and against which the vaccine produced by VECOL [Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise] has apparently proven ineffective, the national government announced yesterday a well-coordinated offensive against this epizootic disease that is threatening to spread to cattle ranches on the eastern plains and the Atlantic coast.

Among the measures announced are sanitary cordons, an increase and improvement in the vaccine, quarantines on the farms affected, inspection at fairs and exhibitions, a ban on the movement of livestock and extensive publicity on prevention and guidance addressed to cattle raisers.

Moreover, the Cundinamarca Cattlemen's Association [FEDEGACUN] has requested that the government use mobile squads to control the epidemic, so as to prevent not only the movement of sick animals but also to keep them from being used for human consumption by unscrupulous dealers. FEDEGACUN also advises a series of measures to make this control of foot-and-mouth disease in Sabana more effective.

An important disclosure made yesterday indicates that Colombia has started producing an oily vaccine against the dread epizootic disease which, according to statements made by the manager of VECOL, appears to be "a powerful tool with which to combat this scourge of cattle ranches."

Mobile Squads Organized

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 80 Sec A p 9

[Text] Following the announcement made by EL ESPECTADOR in its edition of 2 January regarding foot-and-mouth disease, in an interview with the chairman of the Cundinamarca Cattlemen's Association, Alvaro Vargas Garcia, who

commented on the existence of a rather heavy and persistent outbreak of this epizootic disease which it has been impossible to control to date, and which is, rather, threatening to spread to areas of the eastern plains and the Atlantic coast, a natural concern has been evoked among all the leaders of the livestock sector, and it is hoped that this will arouse an appropriate interest and action on the part of officials befitting an emergency of this kind which is hovering over such an important rural industry as cattle raising.

Also, in case there may be processing of cattle slaughtered because of foot-and-mouth disease and purchased by unscrupulous dealers in municipalities near Bogota, the respective health authorities have not released any statement despite the seriousness of the scourge and the control that they are supposed to exercise over meat for human consumption.

Effective Campaign

We held another interview on the subject with the chairman of FEDEGACUN, Alvaro Vargas Garcia, who reaffirmed his position concerning the epizootic disease, stating: "What is needed is a genuine health campaign on the part of the public sector that is truly geared to the present needs and the object of real human and technical concern. Furthermore, it should be an eloquent demonstration of the government's capacity in such matters, and of its power of persuasion and control over the situation; because, otherwise, anything that may be attempted will be insignificant and innocuous, despite the great efforts and activity expended by the cattle raisers themselves, in an attempt to curb the effects of the epizootic disease."

Meat Consumption

With regard to the consumption of meat from sick animals, the FEDEGACUN chairman declared: "We in the industry have not really heard of any instances wherein meat from animals killed because of foot-and-mouth disease is being marketed and sold. This does not mean that we are not alarmed over such a senseless thing, but rather that our action is aimed at exploring the situation and probing insofar as possible in order to find any pertinent evidence. And, if we should discover unacceptable or reprehensible acts in this case, we would alert the cattle raisers and the competent authorities so that the most desirable and forceful measures might be taken to stop and put an end to this illegal and very dangerous trade."

Preventive Measures

He was asked: What measures could be established, or what rulings should be enacted to prevent and curb both the epizootic disease and that illegal trading in the public markets?

He replied: "In view of the features of the disease, which are so readily apparent, and, on the other hand, the phenomenon of the sale of dead animals for human consumption under such circumstances, it seems to us to us

undeferrable not only to implement all the legal provisions that the government officials have from the standpoint of health control, but also those of a policing nature, to exercise the closest surveillance over livestock and meat markets;" adding: "There should certainly be a special measure affecting those operating in the rural areas. There are a great many regulations, but in this emergency we must line up all the possible batteries, because the experience currently affecting the livestock industry in Cundinamarca and in the rest of the country is one which demands devoting absolutely all the attention necessary; because a significant asset that is vital to the country is at stake."

Mobile Squads

Vargas Garcia said: "To specify one proposal for control, we have suggested to the governor of the department, Dr Miguel Santamaría Davila, that his office take action consisting of the establishment of mobile squads using automotive vehicles and comprised of personnel from ICA and national police units, the former for the essential technical health control, and the latter to back any decision on the part of the former regarding all the livestock being moved along the public thoroughfares; bearing in mind that, at the moment, only the animals proven to be going to the slaughterhouse should be transported, taking the precaution that they be fattened bulls or unneeded cows, that is to say, under the existing conditions, they can be slaughtered."

Pilot Department

He was asked: Do you think that, after so much publicity about the problem of the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease and the outcry from the union, the measure proposed by FEDEGACUN can be effective?

He replied: "We are certain that, with the splendid spirit that inspires the governor in these matters relating to cattle raising, and his knowledge of the subject, he will give it proper attention; and we have no doubt that he may announce to the country the start of a massive health campaign to curb foot-and-mouth disease, making Cundinamarca a pilot department in this emergency, integrating the entities for work and action in the proposed manner, in addition to any proposals which may arise and which could be enacted in accordance with the human and technical forces that can be recruited. I would like to add that, whereas we are constantly observing on the highways vehicles with loudspeakers advertising beverages, festivals and even ice cream for sale, we do not understand how it could be impossible to properly organize an anti-foot-and-mouth campaign, making use of the automotive, human and technical facilities that are necessary, since the survival of the nation's livestock industry is at stake."

Effects, Treatment

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 80 Sec A p 9

[Text] Foot-and-mouth disease is a very contagious disease which attacks all cloven-hoofed animals (cows, hogs, goats, sheep, deer, etc.). The sick animal salivates heavily, is unable to eat, champs its mouth and hobbles. Blisters form on the tongue and in other parts of the mouth, on the legs and sometimes on the udder. When the blisters break, they leave an ulcer or sore.

Foot-and-mouth disease is serious because of the tremendous losses that it causes, by reducing the output of the animals, as a result of:

Becoming thin and losing flesh; a decline in milk production; abortions; deaths.

The disease is spread by:

1. The movement of sick animals from one place to another.
2. The passage of humans and animals through locations with foot-and-mouth disease.
3. The clothing, boots and tools that have touched sick animals.
4. The meat, milk, bone and hides of sick animals.
5. Water, forage and feed on which sick animals have dribbled or stepped.
6. The vehicles which carry sick animals or which pass through the contaminated locations.

When the Inoculation Should Be Done

Inoculate all livestock after it is 3 months old; repeat the inoculation without fail every 4 months, on all animals.

The dose is the same for young and adult animals.

When the vaccine is administered, there is no danger of abortion. The milk from inoculated cows can be drunk by calves and humans.

Keep a record of inoculations. Enter the information on the inoculated animals, the date, and the batch number of the vaccine used; and notify the veterinarian in the ICA's animal health entity regarding these inoculations.

Do not bring animals that have not been inoculated into the farm, because livestock without inoculations almost always carries the disease to a healthy farm.

Precautions With the Vaccine

1. When purchasing the anti-foot-and-mouth vaccine, make sure that the date for effectiveness written on the label has not expired.
2. Keep the vaccine in a refrigerator at a temperature of from 3 to 7 degrees centigrade. It may also be kept in a wooden carton with ice and sawdust.
3. Do not freeze the vaccine, because it loses all its effectiveness and is useless.
4. Always transport the vaccine in a box or thermos with ice and sawdust, and keep it there until it is to be used.
5. Never leave the vaccine in the sun.
6. Sterilize the syringes and needles in boiling water before using them to inoculate animals.
7. Shake the bottle containing the vaccine before administering it.
8. Apply the vaccine subcutaneously; that is, between the hide and flesh, in the lower part of the chin or the wide part of the neck, with the recommended dose of 5 cubic centimeters for each animal.
9. Do not give rubdowns on the place where the vaccine was administered.

Act as Follows in the Event of an Outbreak

1. Immediately notify the veterinarian in the ICA's animal health service, the closest diagnostic center or a private veterinarian, so that he may render the necessary assistance.
2. Separate the sick animals from the healthy ones.
3. Do not treat foot-and-mouth disease with: salt, vinegar, creoline, lime or dubious drugs; because all these products irritate the lesions.
4. If you observe any very sick animals (one walking very lamely, or with large sores in its mouth or its nipples) apply methylene blue or gentian violet on the sores, using a small brush for each animal. Do not rub the sores with the brush. Burn or bury each brush after using it.

5. After handling animals attacked by foot-and-mouth disease.
6. Assign some individuals to take care of the sick animals. These persons should not touch the healthy animals.
7. Prevent the movement of individuals, animals and vehicles inside and outside of the location with foot-and-mouth disease.
8. Place at the entrance to the pasture grounds receptacles containing a 5 percent solution of sodium carbonate (50 grams per liter of water), in which persons moving from one place to another must wash their boots or shoes.
9. Wash with the same solution the goads, nose rings, buckets and all implements which touch the sick animals.
10. Give the sick animals tender forage and soft feed.
11. Make clean water available to the herd.
12. Try to keep the animals quiet.

13. Keep calm, and avoid the movement of cattle, crowding and the handling of a large number of animals.

Do not take sick animals suffering from foot-and-mouth disease or in the recovery period to livestock fairs.

If your neighbors have sick animals, notify the veterinarian or the ICA zonal supervisor.

Mr Cattleman:

Remember, if you inoculate all of your animals without fail, every 4 months, with the anti-foot-and-mouth vaccine, you will prevent foot-and-mouth disease on your ranch, and hence the great loss of money caused by the loss of weight of the animals, reduced milk production, abortion and other consequences.

Local Vaccine Production

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 80 Sec A p 9

[Text] After several years of exhaustive scientific research, Colombia will put on the market an oily vaccine against foot-and-mouth disease which has been described as "a powerful tool to combat this scourge of the cattle ranches."

As Juan Jose Salazar, manager of the Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise, the entity which created the new product, explained, it is an immunizing vaccine prepared with virus mixed in an oily substance, the effects of which last up to twice as long as those of the traditional vaccine.

The official said that, in March of this year, the first batch of 100,000 doses of oily vaccine will go on the market, and will be used to conduct large-scale experimentation in the cattle-raising areas of Uraba, Sabana de Bogota, Santander, Antiguo Caldas and Valle del Cauca.

The manager of VECOL stated that the immunization period attained at present with the traditional vaccine is only 4 months; whereas the oily type is effective for 6 months on yearlings and for a year on adults.

Dr Salazar said: "This will help us greatly in handling the foot-and-mouth problem confronting the nation;" adding: "We might consider it an assault in the battle against that disease."

Low rate of inoculation: Moreover, the manager of the Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise expressed regret at the fact that the inoculation in Colombia is only 30 percent, something which is an obstacle to the campaign that the government is running against this scourge.

He noted that, out of 25 million head of cattle in Colombia, only 7.5 million are inoculated: an extremely low index.

He reiterated his appeal to the nation's cattle raisers to become aware of the danger involved in foot-and-mouth disease for the cattle industry in particular, and for the nation's economy in general. He requested the co-operation of all business owners in that sectors in having their livestock inoculated totally and often.

The manager of VECOL said that foot-and-mouth disease is to livestock what rust is to coffee plants; and that this should be cause for concern in the country in general and among cattle raisers in particular.

Strategies Used

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 11 Jan 80 Sec A p 9

[Text] Yesterday, the national government announced the adoption of a well coordinated strategy for combating foot-and-mouth disease throughout the entire country, particularly in Sabana de Bogota, where there has been another outbreak of this scourge during recent weeks.

This strategy includes, among other things, the massive, clinical inoculation of livestock, publicity campaigns on prevention and guidance for the livestock raiser, increased vaccine production, an improvement in the latter, a ban on moving animals that have not been inoculated, quarantines in necessary cases and special controls over fairs and exhibitions.

This campaign, the most intensive one ever held in the country, was announced by the manager of the Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise (VECOL), Juan Jose Salazar, who reported that it would go into effect within a few weeks.

Control Difficult

The official was emphatic in stating that it was untrue that the vaccine produced by that entity is inefficient; and, in this regard, he explained that the fact is that foot-and-mouth disease, like influenza, is caused by viruses of very different types, something which makes its control difficult.

He said that, in the case of Sabana de Bogota, for example, four viruses have been discovered: two of type A, and two of type O. This, obviously, poses a great problem, because if the vaccine is made from one of those viruses it cannot be effective against the four strains.

In any event, he remarked, VECOL has started making vaccines from all the viruses that have been detected, in order to produce effective immunization.

Similarly, a complete change has been made in the immunization production process, with experts from the Welcome firm advising VECOL; and, in addition, there have been changes in the procedures for packing (or packaging), refrigerating and shipment of the vaccines, so as to insure that there will be no shortcomings in those areas.

A distribution center has already been established in Barranquilla; and, gradually, more will be created in other sections of the country, to insure an adequate supply of this product to all of the nation's cattle raisers.

The Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute, the entity that is responsible for animal health in the country, has collaborated closely on all of these programs.

2909

CSO: 5400

COLOMBIA

AFTOSA PERSISTS, CONTROL PROBLEMS EXPLAINED

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 29 Dec 79 p 11-A

[Article by Roberto Acero: "Steps to Counteract Foot-and-Mouth Disease"]

[Text] The problem of foot-and-mouth disease continues to undermine Colombia's livestock industry. During the past week, the cattle division of the departmental government of Cundinamarca issued Decree 5099, which prohibits the movement of cattle in the most affected area, which according to the ICA Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute] includes the cities of Zipaquirá, Nemocón, Cogua, Chocontá, Ubaté, Facatativá and Madrid. In these and other towns cattle markets are prohibited, as is the movement of cattle, swine, horses, sheep, goats, donkeys and mules. Although the disease only attacks cattle, sheep, swine and goats, the other animals can be carriers of the virus.

The main difficulty in controlling the disease is the ineffectiveness of the vaccine, because what is supplied is not of good quality or in sufficient quantity. Moreover, there are three types of viruses which cause the disease: A, C and O; and these in turn can produce more than 16 variants, and the treatment must be specific for each one of these virulent forms. For example, the disease caused by virus A appears on a ranch; next an outbreak of virus A-1 can turn up; and later a new attack with virus A-2 is possible. So there are three outbreaks in all, and each one of them requires a different treatment and vaccine, although it is the same disease and manifests itself in the same form. This situation causes another difficulty, which is that the vaccine, because it is not specific, only controls the secondary lesions and not the cause of the disease. Thus, the problem faced by VECOL [Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise] is how to manufacture a different type of vaccine for every one of the new outbreaks which appear. To this other difficulties can be added, such as vaccinating correctly, and the cold storage of the vaccine, which must be kept at 4 degrees centigrade, more or less.

Arrived Here in 1950

The problem of foot-and-mouth disease arrived in the country in 1950 from Venezuela, although it originated in Brazil. Before that year the disease

had not been reported in Colombia, and after that it was not treated appropriately, because it was confused with the so-called "Mal de Tierra," which is a disease caused by another virus known as "New Jersey." These two diseases can be distinguished in the field by exposing a horse to disease from a cow. If the horse becomes infected, it is a case of "Mal de Tierra," if not, it is foot-and-mouth disease.

At present, because of the seriousness of the epizootic, control operations should be carried out on a national level, because the disease could spread to the whole country. The immunization campaign which took place in 1950 had an effect, but at present the problems are greater, because of the secondary effects of the winter and the lack of economic resources on a national level.

The setbacks suffered up to now in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease must be overcome immediately and effectively, because the entire livestock population of Colombia is being threatened, which this year amounts to 26.25 million head of cattle, 1.91 million swine, 2.35 million sheep and 638,000 goats.



The virus which causes foot-and-mouth disease first attacks the mucous membranes of the animal. Later eruptions appear on the tongue, which hinder the animal from feeding properly. For this reason, the animal "declines," and death may take place. At this time the animal suffers from fevers. Note in the photograph the lesions on the tongue caused by the eruptions.

COLOMBIA

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK, FEW HUMANS AFFECTED

Cattle Slaughtered

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Jan 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] The tuberculosis which has struck the livestock industry on several farms located in Valle de Ubate is beginning to be transmitted to humans.

Meanwhile, the danger of a spread of the epidemic is threatening other departments, since it has been confirmed that diseased cattle are being moved to Pasto Chiquinquirá, Zipaquirá and the northern part of the country.

Yesterday, EL SIGLO ascertained the serious status of the livestock in the region, as an exclusive witness to the slaughter of 800 head of cattle on the Los Hoyos farm, in La Isla and in Entrerriós.

Early in the day, technicians from the Colombian Agricultural and Animal Sciences Institute (ICA) arrived to take preventive measures and oversee the excavation in which the livestock were buried afterwards. An extensive electrical system was installed for the "execution" of the cattle from an entire herd.

Macabre Operation

At 0600 hours, the farm workers began to move the animals, while the noise of the bulldozers accompanied the final details on a trench with a radius of 100 meters and a capacity to cover 220 tons of carcasses.

Using loudspeakers, an ICA official instructed persons not wearing coveralls and heavy-duty shoes to leave the site, because of the imminent danger of contagion. The Institute's technicians, properly garbed in white uniforms and protective helmets, started the slaughter.

The animals confined in a corral went to the electrically charged pole, one by one. Their instantaneous death from a high-powered shock was checked by the veterinarians present, who authorized their immediate entombment in the trench.

At first, a bulldozer carried them to the bottom of the trench, but in view of the number of animals they decided to have them thrown from the cliff. A sharp blow was the final confirmation of the death for the technicians waiting below. Another machine was responsible for arranging the carcasses.

Experts and members of the operating group then cut open the bellies of the animals to insure their rapid decomposition.

The slaughter continued until late in the afternoon. Groups of 30 head of cattle were taken to the scaffold by the distressed workers, who sadly took leave of them, standing by helpless as the work of breeding and caring for them for over 17 years was lost, as a result of the impossibility of controlling a disease that is now threatening the entire country.

The sickest ones went first. Thin, lame and emaciated, not only because of the advanced state of tuberculosis in their bodies, but also from the effects of foot-and-mouth disease, which also attacked them only 2 months ago, they arrived at the site of the slaughter with difficulty.

Then it was the turn of the younger animals, many of which were only calves or newly bred cows. Finally, the most valuable ones came, the winners of several competitions.

The Losses

The owners of the farms did not witness the operation. One of the administrators, Jose Pinilla, remarked laconically: "The owners are in bed. They have lost their life's work and what their fathers left them."

The losses amounted to over 37 million pesos, of which sum the state will only reimburse 22 million. In addition, emphasis should be placed on the financial devastation, due to the lack of livestock productivity, affecting 200 hectares, which must now be cleared of contaminated forage, the cost of which has been estimated at 5 million pesos. The land may later be used for farming.

Among the cows slaughtered there were 37 "champions," the market value of which had been set at 100,000 pesos.

Causes and Effects

The original cause of the outbreak of the dread disease in the region could not be established officially, because government agencies have refrained from supplying information, and have even attempted to detract importance from the calamity.

Jose Pinilla, administrator of the farm on which the largest number of animals was slaughtered, and who has been in charge of the herd for over 17

years, stated that the infection may have been brought in by some Dutch cows that were imported to the area 5 years ago, or by some Argentine horses that were recently purchased by Bernardo Salazar Gomez, the owner of the property.

Pinilla, an expert on livestock raising, claimed that the current problem is a result of the lack of government control over imports of animals, which arrive without any checkup and are taken directly to the farms.

Valle de Ubate has among its herds the most select conditions for milk production in the country; and therefore animals for breeding and reproduction leave from there every day for different parts of Colombia.

The means of transmitting the disease may be direct or indirect. Among cattle, the virus spreads from the consumption of forage which has been in contact with the saliva from sick animals. It is transmitted to humans when they drink milk or eat meat that has been infected.

Human Victims

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 15 Jan 80 pp 1, 3

[Text] When it had been confirmed that the Ubate area showed positive signs of bovine tuberculosis, a medical check was made, farm by farm, on the individuals in daily contact with the animals. At the outset, it appeared that the disease had not reached humans.

Suddenly, three women among the personnel working on the Entre Rios farm became ill. The doctor who examined them diagnosed their ailment as tuberculosis. At first, there was an attempt to keep the outbreak of the contagion among the residents of the area secret, to prevent widespread alarm.

The news was leaked, creating concern among the residents, who took extreme measures, to the point where one commonly hears uninformed individuals in Simijaca remark: "One can no longer drink milk or eat meat."

Hernando Rojas, an ICA veterinarian who detected the disease, told this newspaper that the precautions taken are extreme, and that the three women who were infected have been subjected to careful medical treatment.

The cases of contagion may be more numerous, since it was confirmed that 36 head of cattle sent to the Ubate slaughterhouse showed tuberculosis; 28 of them were killed and marketed. The rest were burned at the express order of the ICA.

In addition, 300 animals belonging to the Los Hoyos herd were sold in different parts of the country; and it was confirmed that they are located in Pasto, Zipaquirá, Facatativá and Ubate. To date, with the exception of the last herd, no cases of tuberculosis are known to exist.

The aforementioned ranch is a necessary route to other farms; and therefore it is feared that more animals may be suffering from the disease.

Under these circumstances, the livestock emergency that exists in Valle de Ubate and Sabana de Bogota as a result of tuberculosis and foot-and-mouth disease has not only left owners with economic problems, with many failing to report outbreaks of the diseases on their farms and, on the contrary, marketing the livestock immediately, but is also creating the conditions leading to a public calamity, with inestimable social costs.

2909

CSO: 5400

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER CONFIRMED IN GUANTANAMO PROVINCE

FL111146 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The agriculture ministry has released a note in Havana concerning positive cases of African swine fever detected in Guantanamo Province. Early this year, the note explains, some deaths of hogs were reported in a suburban area of Baracoa and a group of specialists immediately went to the area to study the situation. Definitive diagnostic tests conducted in late January confirmed the presence of African swine fever in Cuba and a national command post was established to direct and supervise measures for control and eradication of the fever. As of last Friday, outbreaks of the disease were confirmed in 24 areas of seven municipalities in Guantanamo Province. In the face of the confirmation of outbreaks in almost all municipalities and the danger of spread of the disease, the note continues, it was decided to sacrifice all the hogs in the province. This total elimination of the hogs should be concluded no later than 15 February.

The note goes on to say that action is being taken in Santiago de Cuba to eliminate all hogs in a strip of land of 5 kilometers bordering on Guantanamo. In Holguin, the other province bordering on Guantanamo, health posts were set up on roads to Guantanamo, and all hogs in a strip of land of 5 kilometers are being sacrificed. Strict control also is being exercised on all Guantanamo lines of communications with bordering provinces and sea and air transport services leaving Guantanamo.

In general, special instructions were issued for Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas provinces designed, above all, to raise the state of alert regarding African swine fever. At the same time, a state of health alert was declared against the swine fever in the other provinces and Isle of Youth special municipality.

Referring to the possible cause of these outbreaks, the agriculture ministry note points out that it has been the growing arrivals of Haitian immigrants en route to other countries fleeing from the miserable conditions of life in their country. In most cases, these immigrants arrive in Cuba in vessels without the minimum facilities for navigation and without food, counting on the Cuban government for aid and repair of their dilapidated vessels.

This immigration has increased considerable in recent years and the unexpected arrival of vessels on any point of the eastern coast has obstructed strict observance of international health control measures. From 1977 to early January 1980, there have been a total of 119 arrivals with a total of 4,146 immigrants. These illegal arrivals, the agriculture ministry note says, represent a potential threat because of the introduction of contagious diseases that affect man or livestock, and strict international health control measures are being taken.

African swine fever was detected previously in our country in the summer of 1971. At that time, the note concludes, effective action of organizations and institutions involved in the control program, supported by the political and mass organizations and with the understanding and willingness of the people in general to apply the measures outlined, helped to eradicate the disease quickly. This support again is required as well as the greatest exigency from the officials charged with the task of coping with the disease energetically and eradicating it, keeping losses at a minimum.

CSO: 5400

ECUADOR

MEASURES TAKEN TO GUARD AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 28 Dec 79 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Agriculture has taken strict measures to guard against the entry of animals across the northern border which could be carriers of foot-and-mouth disease, a sickness which has been decimating Colombian cattle herds.

The Board of Animal Sanitation has spread a rigid sanitary control barrier to guard against the secret entry of Colombian cattle because this disease spreads rapidly.

Urgent Measures

Strict control is being exercised over the mobilization of animals in the Colombian border areas with special attention to the cattle sold in the Tulcan, San Gabriel, El Angel, Ibarra, Otavalo and Cotacachi markets in Carchi and Imbabura provinces, respectively.

Mobilization guidelines have been extended only for animals which have been vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease and are headed for the Quito slaughterhouses, restricting to a minimum the movement of breeding animals.

The immediate vaccination of young animals has been ordered in the Esmeraldas and Carchi areas, as well as permanent epidemiological supervision in the northern border herds and the installation of a health control station on the way out of Tulcan.

One Hundred Thousand Doses of Vaccine

It was also reported that according to the National Animal Health Program statistics, 100,000 doses of anti-foot-and-mouth disease vaccine were administered across the nation in 1979. As a result of this plan, since October 1979 there have been no outbreaks of the disease along the northern border.

Likewise, an appeal was issued to merchants and cattlemen who work in the northern area for them to refrain from bringing in Colombian cattle.

HONDURAS

BRIEFS

SWINE FEVER EPIDEMIC DENIED—Dr Alberto Espinosa of the Ministry of Natural Resources Animal Health Department has reported that the report appearing in a Tegucigalpa newspaper last week about an epidemic of swine fever on the north coast is highly exaggerated. He explained that there have been outbreaks of this disease in this area for years and that preventive measures are being taken, but that there is no cause for concern since this does not constitute an epidemic. [Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

KENYA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK--Kitui veterinary officer M. Kithinji has ordered the closure of all livestock markets in Nuu and Andau locations following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. He has also directed that animals taken for slaughter would have to be transported by vehicles. [Text] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 26 Jan 80 p 5]

CSO: 4420

CATTLE DISEASE REPORTED IN GONGOLA STATE

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Jan 80 p 16

[Article by A.B. Tapidi]

[Text]

AN outbreak of a contagious cattle disease, Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) has been reported in three local government areas of Gongola State.

The outbreak of the disease was reported at Karim Lamido, Numan and Yola all along the evergreen valley of Rivers Benue and Gongola respectively.

The state commissioner for Animal Health and Forest Resources, Malam Abdullahi Kirim, disclosed this in an interview in Yola, the state capital.

Malam Abdullahi said about 85,300 heads of cattle had so far been vaccinated against the killer disease while 94 heads of cattle had been reported dead since the outbreak.

The commissioner who had just returned from an "on-the-spot" tour of the Karim Lamido Local Government area said the government had deployed large quantities of vaccines for inoculation against the disease.

Similarly, field officers of the Veterinary Division of the ministry had been mobilised to reinforce the staff strength stationed in the affected areas.

Malam Abdullahi explained that the best treatment of the CBPP was the "slaughter policy to avoid wide spread of the disease". He said the cattle owners would be compensated immediately.

He disclosed that representation had been made to the Federal

Government seeking financial aid on the situation.

Malam Abdullahi remarked that influx of diseased cattle from the neighbouring Cameroun Republic and other neighbouring states in the federation had contributed greatly to the outbreak of the disease.

The commissioner stated that most of the heads of cattle from the three local government areas had been quarantined and his field staff were maintaining an effective surveillance patrol.

He pointed out that the major problem was how to control the movement of the nomadic Fulanis. He said the steps taken to settle them by the government were not very successful.

Malam Abdullahi hinted that efforts had been made to control other diseases affecting our domestic animals and the total eradication of the CBPP in the state.

He reiterated the determination of the government to develop poultry and livestock industry as well as the improvement of cattle industry in the state.

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

ANTIRABIES DRIVE--Bacolod City--More than 1,000 dogs have been immunized by teams of veterinary students and personnel of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), in Bacolod City on the third day of a massive anti-rabies immunization campaign, Dr Machito Baylon, provincial veterinarian of Negros Occidental, said today. He said about 200 barangays had been covered by the drive coordinated by 35 veterinary students from the University of the Philippines (UP) and Araneta University (AU). Barangays covered by the immunization were: Banago, 14, 15 one, 16, three, four, 17, 18 five, six, 19, seven, 20, 21, eight, 10, 22, 23, nine, 11, 24, 25, 136, 26, 27. He said the immunization campaign is assisted by Bacolod City government through a financial aid of P30,000. He said it is aimed at eradicating rabies in Bacolod City which caused death to several persons this year. (PNA) [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 28 Dec 79 p 7]

CSO: 5400

RHODESIA

BRIEFS

CATTLE INOCULATED--Bulawayo. The Department of Veterinary Services in Bulawayo is still investigating the extent of the foot-and-mouth outbreak in the Heany Junction area. Dr J.O.K. Roger, the Provincial Veterinary Officer, said yesterday that since the discovery of the outbreak in the Cold Storage Commission's feedlot near Cement Siding last week, about 20,000 cattle had been inoculated. These included the 3,500 cattle in the feedlot. About 200 cattle in three pens in the feedlot were infected, he said earlier. The department paid for all inoculations of cattle, because foot-and-mouth was a scheduled disease "and to control it is in the national interest." Dr Roger said last week that the disease had also broken out on a farm adjoining the feedlot, and 1,000 cattle there had been quarantined. Movement of cattle had been restricted in a 40 km radius of the feedlot. Yesterday several farmers near the feedlot said there was no infection in their farms, but that since Wednesday all their cattle had been inoculated by the department's veterinary teams. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 5 Feb 80 p 9]

CSO: 5400

STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT COFFEE RUST SPREAD FROM PERU TO ECUADOR

Quito EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Jan 80 p 1

[Text] Eng Jofre Velez, director of the National Coffee Program, said today in statements to the press that coffee rust, a disease which affects coffee plants, is nearing the southern frontier, and it is imperative that urgent measures be adopted to prevent the spread of this fungus.

He declared that if this disease should appear in Ecuador, it would affect more than 60 percent of the plantations; therefore it is necessary for the military authorities to carry out detailed inspections, so that plant products which could be carriers of the rust do not enter the country through the frontier area.

On the other hand, he gave assurance that at the moment there is no coffee rust here, and he dismissed the possibility that it had been introduced into the areas of Santo Domingo and Quininde.

Measures Taken

Later the official revealed that the Department of Plant Quarantine, which carries out important work in the country, is taking a direct part in various measures that have been adopted.

On the frontier with Peru, a country which has been attacked by the fungus, there are various inspection posts for plant products, which are subjected to a thorough fumigation with sodium hypochlorite on arrival in Ecuador.

Finally, Velez asked for the cooperation of all citizens who for any reason have to leave the country. They should avoid bringing in plant products on their return, and should comply with the conditions and inspections at the seven quarantine posts set up in El Oro, six in Loja, and one in Zumba, Zamora province.

8131
CSO: 5400

CUBA

BRIEFS

TOBACCO DISEASE CLOSES FACTORIES--Havana, 17 Jan (AFP)--Havana's large cigar factories have ceased production for 6 months on account of the blue mold (moho azul) disease that is affecting Cuba's tobacco plantations, it was learned here today. The measure, which had affected the Romeo y Julieta, H. Upman, Partagas and Heroes del Moncada factories in December, now applies to the Corona and Cohiba--President Fidel Castro's favorite--factories and will last until July. [Text] [PA171853 Paris AFP in Spanish 1807 GMT 17 Jan 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BRIEFS

PLANT TRANSPORTING CONTROL--The Plant Health Department of the Secretariat of Agriculture yesterday began a publicity campaign aimed at preventing the importation of plants, fruits, seeds, flowers and vegetables which could spread diseases and pests to the nation's agriculture. In a press release, the official department stated that to bring any kind of those items into the country a permit from Agriculture is required, accompanied by a health certificate which states that those products are free from pests harmful to agriculture. It says that in case these items are shown to be contaminated with pests already present in the country, they must be treated prior to authorization of entrance; but if the pests do not exist in the area, the products run the risk of being returned, confiscated or incinerated as part of the program of quarantine. It explains that "the Caribbean region is at present threatened by coffee rust, Capra weevil, Mediterranean fruit fly and others, which frequently are found to be infecting plant material exchanged or traded with afflicted countries in the area." [Text] [Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 12 Jan 80 p 11] 8131

CSO: 5400

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

COFFEE RUST CONTROL--Mexican agricultural experts and authorities from the Guatemalan Agriculture Ministry are considering a joint program for the control of coffee rust. Agriculture Minister Ponciano Castillo has said the cooperation of Mexico and other member countries of the international regional organization against plant and animal diseases to control coffee rust will have positive results and will keep the disease from being transmitted to Guatemala. [PA031533 Guatemala City Radio Mundial in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Jan 80 PA]

CSO: 5400

EFFORTS TO SAVE MUSTARD CROP FROM PESTS

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Jan 80 p 7

[Text]

KARACHI, Nan. 1: The agricultural experts have made useful efforts to find out methods to control damage caused by insects and pests to mustard and rape crops—the main oilseed rabi crops in Sind.

The yield of mustard and rape in Sind is amongst the lowest in the world with an average of only 5.1 maunds per acre as compared to 28.7 maunds (per acre) in the Netherlands.

The low yield was attributed, besides other factors, to the ravages caused by insects and pests. Damage due to insects is roughly estimated to range from 20 to 50 per cent depending upon the intensity of attack due to favourable and unfavourable conditions.

A number of insects are responsible for this damage but the

major share is taken by mustard aphid, painted bug, white flies, semi looper and mustard sawfly, the experts said.

Of all these, aphids are regarded as the most dreadful and widely existing pest of Sind, particularly in southern Sind.

According to these experts in 1960 an unprecedented form of outbreak of aphid was recorded which caused loss to over 70 per cent in the southern Sind with the results that farmers were still reluctant to grow this cash crop during winter months.

The efforts made by the department against this damage includes early sowing of crop which inhibits aphids from establishing and use of pesticides in the form of sprays or granules.—APP

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